

REMARKS:

Claims 1-34 are currently pending in the present Application. Claims 24-34 are allowed. By this amendment, Claims 1, 3, 9, 15-20, and 22 are hereby canceled.

Claims 16-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention. Claims 1, 3, 4, 7-9, 11-15, 17-20, and 22 stand rejected under 102(e) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Publication No. 2005/0165516 (Haissig). Claims 2, 5, 6, 10, 21, and 23 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in dependent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In view of the following comments, allowance of all the claims pending in the application is respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph:

Claims 16-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention. In particular, the Examiner states that “the selected position” lacks antecedent basis.

Claims 16-18 are hereby cancelled, consequently rendering the Examiner’s rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, moot.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(e) and 103(a):

Claims 1, 3, 4, 7-9, 11-15, 17-20, and 22 stand rejected under 102(e) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Haissig.

Claims 1, 3, 9, 15-20, and 22 are hereby cancelled, consequently rendering the Examiner's rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(e) and 103(a) moot; however, the Applicants hereby reserve the right to later pursue Claims 1, 3, 9, 15-20, and 22 in later filed continuations of the present application. Although the Applicants believe Claims 1, 3, 9, 15-20, and 22 are directed to patentable subject matter without amendment, Claims 1, 3, 9, 15-20, and 22 are hereby cancelled in order to expedite the prosecution of the present application. By making this amendment, the Applicants do not indicate agreement with or acquiescence to the Examiner's position with respect to the rejections of this claim under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) and 103(a, as set forth in the Office Action.

Claims 4, 7, 8, and 11-14 are hereby amended to be dependent claims dependent upon allowable base claims, thereby rendering the Examiner's rejection to these claims under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(e) and 103(a) moot. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully request that Claims 4, 7, 8, and 11-14, as amended, be allowed.

Objected to Claims:

Claims 2, 5, 6, 10, 21, and 23 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 2, 5, 6, 10, 21, and 23 are hereby amended as independent claims including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully request that Claims 2, 5, 6, 10, 21, and 23, as amended, be allowed.

Distinctions, Other Than Those Discussed, May Exist:

It should be noted that the Applicants have merely discussed example distinctions from the reference cited by the Examiner. Other distinctions may exist and Applicants reserve the right to discuss these additional distinctions in a future Response or on Appeal. By not responding to the additional statements made by the Examiner,

the Applicants do not acquiesce to the Examiner's additional statements. The remarks provided above are sufficient to overcome the Examiner's rejections.

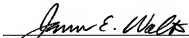
CONCLUSION:

The Applicants submit that the foregoing amendments and remarks made with respect to Claims 2, 4-8, 10-14, 21, and 23 traverse the Examiner's rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(e) and 103(a), and that Claims 2, 4-8, 10-14, 21, and 23, as amended, are now in condition for allowance. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully request that Claims 2, 4-8, 10-14, 21, and 23 be allowed in addition to allowed Claims 23-34.

This Amendment is being filed via the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's EFS-Web electronic filing system. The application was originally filed with 34 claims, of which 5 claims were independent claims. The Applicants previously paid for 2 additional claims in excess of three at the time of filing. By this amendment, 3 additional independent claims, for a total of 8 independent claims, are hereby filed. Therefore, the Applicants paying a total filing fee of \$660.00 for 3 additional independent claims in excess of three (3 X \$220.00). The filing fee is being paid via a designated credit card. No other fees are deemed to be necessary; however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayments, to **Deposit Account No. 502806**.

Respectfully submitted,

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